



**PARK COMMISSION**

*Zachary Keller, Chair  
Veronica Plaughter-Macias, Vice Chair  
Jaclyn Dwyer, Director, Parks and Recreation*

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite D, Modesto, CA 95358-9492  
Phone (209) 525-6750

**AGENDA**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite D, Tuolumne Building  
Conference Room  
Modesto, CA 95358

**Call Meeting to Order:**

The Stanislaus County Park Commission encourages public participation and welcomes the public's interest. Members of the public may be heard on any item of the Stanislaus County Park Commission's agenda. A person addressing the Commission will be limited to five (5) minutes, unless the Chairperson of the commission grants a longer period of time. The Commission will allow comments by members of the public on an agenda item only during consideration of the item.

**Agenda Items:**

1. Call to Order	Chair
2. Roll Call and Excused Absences	
3. Introduction(s)	
4. Public Comment(s)	
5. Approval of Minutes for October 10, 2019 Meeting	Commissioners
6. Staff Highlights	Staff
7. Commission Comment(s)	Commissioners
8. Approval of 2020 Meeting Calendar	Commissioners
9. Elections (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)	Commissioners
10. Old Business	

**Adjournment, the next meeting will be on:**  
**Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite D, Tuolumne Building**  
**Conference Room**  
**Modesto, CA 95358**

**Standing Reminders:**

- a. Elections in November
- b. July is Parks Month
- c. FPPC 700 Forms (annual)
  - Link: <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/Form700.html>
- d. AB 1234 Ethics Course (every two years)
  - Link: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>

**Commission Goals:**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Enhance Board Communication | 3. Training and Education for Commissioners |
| 2. Increase Partnerships       | 4. Increase Awareness of Parks              |

Regular meetings are held at 5 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation in the Stanislaus Building, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358. If you have an item you wish to be considered for a regular meeting agenda, please contact the Commission Secretary at (209) 525-6770, three (3) weeks prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission Secretary at (209) 525-6770. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Department to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Agendas can be found online at <http://www.stancounty.com/parks/parks-recreation-commission.shtm>, subject to staff's ability to post prior to the meeting. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the main office of the Department of Parks and Recreation, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA 95358.



**PARK COMMISSION**  
*Zachary Keller, Chair*  
*Veronica Plaughner-Macias, Vice Chair*  
*Jami Aggers, Director, Parks and Recreation*

**MINUTES**  
**October 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.**

Stanislaus Building, 2nd Floor  
 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C  
 Modesto, CA 95358

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Zachary Keller, D2  
 Chad Kennedy, AL  
 Kyle Fliflet, AL

**PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:**

Heidi Hidalgo  
 Mae Song  
 Veronica Torres

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Veronica Plaughner-Macias, D5  
 Joseph Sanchez, D3

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Jim DeMartini

**A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

- The meeting was called to order.
- An excused absence was received for Veronica Plaughner-Macias and Joseph Sanchez

**ACTIONS**

*Chad Kennedy*

**B. PARKS DEPARTMENT CHANGES**

- Mae introduced Veronica Torres as the new Park Commission Secretary and mentioned she will be voted-in in November.
- Heidi was introduced as the Marketing Coordinator for Parks since she had not attended a meeting since she was hired into this position. Heidi stated she will attend these meetings as necessary/requested.
- The Department of Parks & Recreation has officially moved to the Tuolumne Building. Beginning next month the meetings will now be held there. The address is 3800 Cornucopia Way, Tuolumne Building - Suite D, Modesto, CA 95358.
- Heidi reported the Dirty Bird Music Festival took place this past weekend. It was a sold-out event. They expected 7,500 participants and they ended up with 6,981 participants. The festival was very successful and there were no noise complaints.
- The Laird playground is completed and the restrooms will be installed soon.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Mae Song*

*Veronica Torres*

*Heidi Hidalgo*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

**D. GUEST COMMENTS**

- Supervisor DeMartini reported the old Animal Services Center on Finch Road, which was owned by the City and the County, has been sold. The location will continue to be used as an animal shelter and will also serve as venue for a job training program; however, the County will not be part of it.

*Supervisor DeMartini*

The Community of Crowslanding received a grant award of \$756,000 recently.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the June 13, 2019, meeting were approved upon motion and second. There were no meetings in July, August or September.

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

*Kennedy, Fliflet,  
 unanimous approval*

**F. STAFF HIGHLIGHTS****REPORTER***Heidi Hidalgo*

1. Woodward Reservoir - Visitation was very heavy during the triple digit temperature days with record crowds; however, the school season has slowed down visitation, though busier than last year.
2. Hunters have already pinned blinds for the upcoming duck season. Seven of the fourteen duck blinds that pinned are in place to participate in the early goose hunt.
3. SSJID notified the Dept. early this year of the season's water restriction schedule, which was enforced right after the Labor Day weekend September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Visitation for September dropped way off due to the annual no body to water contact.
4. Sign replacements were made throughout the park as a number of signs have faded badly or were damaged.
5. Safe Kids Water Safety event was a big success with 106 life jackets given away to low income children under the age of 18. The life jacket loaner program issued over 851 life jackets during this season and 100 of these loaned out on August 4<sup>th</sup> alone. The life jacket loaner program will be evaluated for replacement jackets.
6. Heidi will find out how many jackets will need to be replaced and report on that at the next meeting.
7. Mussel dog inspections were conducted over the summer weekends.
8. Grant possibilities from Boating and Waterways include the main boat ramp, dock and restroom refurbishment. Also upgrades to Bayview PT. solar panels, windmill and boat docks.
9. Restroom painting, fire pit replacement, sewer cap repairs, tree pruning and sign repair/replacement are all on the agenda for fall and winter projects.
10. Plans for a concessions building being installed for next season are going through.
11. Modesto Reservoir - Camping and day use are either booked or heavily used through the summer months. Camping has slowed down in September but we still stay busy on the weekends due to Woodward's Restriction on body to water contact.
12. Dirty bird campout started setting up in September and they expect over 7500 campers.
13. Amerine Pump Service completed the connection between our two water systems at Modesto Reservoir with a bigger diameter pipe and also added a sand filter to one of the wells.
14. Hensley paving added an ADA parking spot to the west boat ramp.  
A boating accident occurred June 29<sup>th</sup> and two people sustained major injuries.
15. In July, one drowning incident was reported where a 70-year-old was recovered within minutes from jumping into the water, however the man did not survive. No major incidents were reported in September at Modesto Reservoir. 404 life jackets were loaned out in July.
16. The Society for Disabilities had their first adaptive ski event on July 27<sup>th</sup> and continued additional events into August.
17. The Archery Club has continued to hold their 3D shoot events on Saturdays. And their Eagles scouts did a project out at the Archery range which included grooming the ground and spreading out bark on pathways.
18. Visitation remained steady with campsites still booked through August. Labor Day was busy—Sunday heavy in day-use.
19. Duck blinds have been pinned and duck hunters have begun setting up blinds out at the reservoir. Waterfowl begins Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at Modesto Reservoir.
20. There are three new vendors at Modesto; two snow cones and one crescent supply vendor.
21. The Kiwanis Youth Camp is routinely maintained, restrooms cleans and lawns mowed. It is already booked 3 weekends in October.
22. LaGrange - OHV season ended toward the beginning of summer; visitation has decreased on the weekends. Labor Day weekend was busy. Plans for campground upgrades to include new amenities—concrete pads, potable water, fire ring table and eventually full hookups for RVs. Two security cameras have been installed in the park. One of the shade structures on the lower camping areas was torn down and stolen on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. A second tarp was stolen off the shade structure in July. Trail work, Erosion control, fencing and facility clean up are done routinely. LaGrange Park was awarded the Operations and Maintenance grant and a new development grant which will upgrade the upper level camping to

full hook up camping. Basso Fishing Access/TFA – both Fishing Access are maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. The restroom is cleaned and maintained regularly. Lawns and trees are regularly maintained at the Old School House.

23. Burbank & Parklawn Park – Staff is looking into potential grant funds available for improvements to these parks, such as a playground or adding amenities. Fairview Park - A new locking display kiosk has been ordered for Fairview Park shade shelter exclusive use and should be received and installed in during the month of October.
24. Mono Park – Both Public Works and Parks had to post 72hr. notice to vacate and in the road right of way at the end of Santa Rita due to homeless camping. Public Works, Parks and Sheriff's office were on site to see that everyone vacated the areas. Parks staff then proceeded to perform their regular duties of mowing, weedeating, etc. Parks staff tested the irrigation system and had to replace 18 sprinkler due to damage.
25. Empire Pool/Park – PAL's summer program has come to a close this past Labor Day weekend. The pool is now closed for the winter season. Quotes will be submitted for repairs to the children's play feature.
26. Fox Grove Park – Annual water sampling at this location has resulted in higher than ideal nitrate level at 50% of the MCL. Due to this level of detection, the sampling frequency has increased from annually to quarterly.
27. Shiloh Fishing Access – A new sign was ordered to replace the current sign to include parking rules due to complaints and neighboring issues.
28. Oregon Park – A dumpster has been delivered for this location to handle the extra trash produced by the summer school's food program, church food and clothing handouts. Oregon Park has been getting consistently graffitied to the point where the entire restroom has to be painted on multiple occasions this month. The sprinkler system at this location has been vandalized numerous times by people trying to turn the sprinklers off. The door to the pipe well on the restroom has been repaired/replaced since it was torn off its hinges during a recent break-in. We are looking into ways to try and minimize this constant graffiti damage. See pictures on below.
29. United Community Park (Grayson) – Parks recommended to the Board to donate an additional 15" strip of land surrounding City of Modesto's well site adjacent to the Park. This will allow the City of Modesto to consolidate their new well, and eventually their new treatment building and storage tank at this one location. In compensation for the land donation the City of Modesto has agreed to install and maintain for life a light that will be directed at the park that will help extend park use into the evening hours. Engineering plans were last at 90%. Parks staff is working with Best Electric on the light to be mounted and maintained by the City in compensation for the land transfer.
30. Laird Park – The new playground structure has been installed. The next project will be to place a new vaulted restroom, solar lights and CCTV cameras. Parks has submitted a warranty claim to the large shade structure manufacturer due to rust issues. The manufacture has agree to prime and paint the structure in the coming month/s. Parks continues to relocate irrigation lines and sprinklers to prevent over spray onto the shade structure and playground.  
19 Sterling Ranch – Stanislaus County Public Works has experience issues with all of the pumps that keep water from going into the basin at this location. Some water has entered the basin and due to soggy ground and standing water Parks has not been able to mow portions of the basin. This should be resolved soon and able to dry out so Parks can mow. Mosquito Abatement was called out to treat this area as a precaution. Someone knocked over a concrete bench and Parks has re-epoxied the bench to the concrete walkway.
31. 21 Hunters Point – This location continues to suffer from infestations of mistletoe in the fruitless pear trees. Removal of the mistletoe will continue through the winter months when the trees drop their leaves, some trees may end up having to be removed and will be replanted with non-susceptible varieties.  
Bonita Park and Pool – Parks staff met with State Parks reps. regarding Prop 68 grant funding to rebuild the pool facility at this location. This meeting was supported by the local community with a large turnout for a Monday afternoon under high temps. Parks was notified on October 1<sup>st</sup> that the project will receive the grant funding.

- 32. Washington Rd. Streetscapes – This area of streetscapes has long been subject to irrigation system damage, most likely from kids kicking off sprinklers on the way to school. Due to irrigation issues some of the shrubs have died off. Parks will work to replant some of this area before the spring. Also Chinese Pistache trees that were planted in the mow strip have grown too large for the area and are starting to lift sections of the sidewalk. Parks is in the process of planning to remove trees in phases and replant a similar variety of trees on planter side and leave the mow strip with only some form of ground cover.
- 33. County C3 – County Center 3 just had someone break into the corp. yard. They stole two trucks, a trailer and a tow behind chipper over the course of 12hr on a weekend. Parks staff were called out when the break in was discovered. Parks staff were able to use GPS on one of the vehicles to track it while on the phone with 911. The person was apprehended and both vehicles and the chipper were recovered. The recovery on the trailer is pending.
- 34. SCCRM Database Entries – Three entries resolved this month and one pending. CSA 10-All parks and streetscapes in CSA 10 are underfunded and will continue to suffer from lack of maintenance in certain aspects. CEO's office, Staff and Public Works are working to propose an assessment increase to resolve the funding issues.
- 35. Old Animal Services Center on Finch – This location had been a complete mess. People have dumped over 100 car tires, 2 boats, and multiple loads of trash in addition to stripping the building of wires and any valuable metal such as all of the aluminum radiators from all of the AC units. Parks staff is doing the best they can to assist with the removal of these items even though staff were only hired to perform landscape maintenance. Parks staff contacted the Hazardous Waste division which responded and removed nearly 100 needles. The County wants to sell this property so hopefully this will be resolved soon.
- 36. Helen White Trail – The West Modesto Community Collaborative is working with staff in seeking donations to make improvements to this area. The area is currently maintained by Grover Landscape.
- 37. Frank Raines Park - Parks Staff are in final review of the engineering plans for the water system expansion from the Deercreek campground to the Frank Raines day park, which depending on funding and bids may include the placement of a new restroom.
- 38. Deercreek Campground and OHV Park – The summer closure of the OHV Park began on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The OHV portion of the park is now closed, although campgrounds and day-use areas will remain open throughout the summer season. The fencing project to close off an area of the park for restoration has been completed. September Update – The OHV season is getting ready to kick off during the month of Oct. and the OHV area will open by Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> with the first event the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> for CORVA's Northern Jamboree.
- 39. The State has issued an intent to award grant funding for ground operations at both OHV parks in the 2019-2020 grant cycle, including a development project for 16 semi-developed campsites at La Grange and electrical upgrades at Frank Raines.
- 40. ASD Crawlers put on a remote control car/truck rock crawler event on August 17<sup>th</sup>. This has become an annual event that results in selling out the full hookup campsites during the normally slower times of the year. The event was well attended and all profits were donated to Autism research and outreach.

**G. COMMISSION GOALS**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

None.

**H. COMMISSION COMMENT(S)**

**ACTIONS & REPORTER**

- 1. The interviews for the next round of grants is just now getting started; they start next week. The second round will be in the spring. The announcement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews will be sent out soon for those who submitted any grants request for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.
- 2. Prop 68 grant for Grayson Park is going before the Board for approval tonight at 7:00 p.m. They are asking for a splash pen playground and upgrades to the basketball court.

*Chad Kennedy*

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

**ACTIONS**

None.

**J. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Parks Commission will be held on, **Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Tuolumne Building, Suite D, Modesto, CA 95358.**

PREPARED BY: Veronica Torres

(209) 525-6750

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# Oregon Park Graffiti

